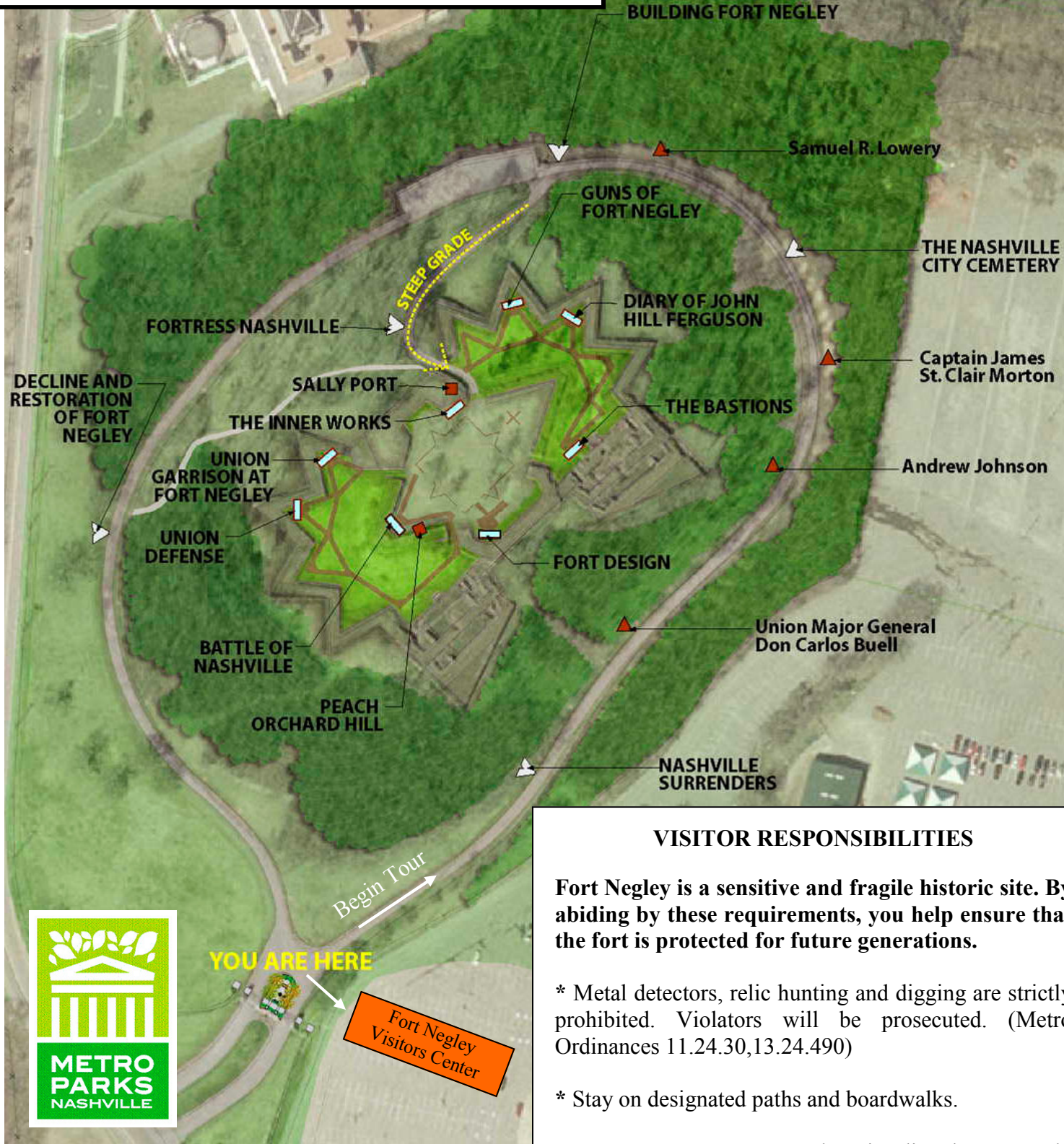
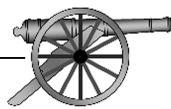


# Fort Negley

## Visitors Center



### VISITOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Fort Negley is a sensitive and fragile historic site. By abiding by these requirements, you help ensure that the fort is protected for future generations.

\* Metal detectors, relic hunting and digging are strictly prohibited. Violators will be prosecuted. (Metro Ordinances 11.24.30, 13.24.490)

\* Stay on designated paths and boardwalks.

\* **DO NOT CLIMB** on or otherwise disturb stonework. Some walls are unstable; disturbing them puts your safety and the integrity of the site at risk.

1100 Fort Negley Blvd, Nashville, TN 37203  
615.862.8470  
[www.nashville.gov/parks/historic/fortnegley](http://www.nashville.gov/parks/historic/fortnegley)



*Fort Negley, the largest inland stone fort built during the Civil War, covers four acres and measures 600 feet long by 300 feet wide.*

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*Fort Negley, George Barnard, 1864*

Nashville's strategic location on the Cumberland River and networks of turnpikes and railroads made the city a valuable asset to both the Union and Confederate Armies. Following the surrender to the Union Army on February 25, 1862, Nashville became a fortified stronghold, second only to Washington D.C.

From August through December 1862, more than 2700 conscript laborers, predominately contrabands (runaway slaves) and free Blacks, constructed Fort Negley, atop St. Cloud Hill, as part of a massive fortification system.

Fort Negley's location, size and guns discouraged Confederate attacks. During the Battle of Nashville, December 15 & 16, 1864, Fort Negley's artillery aided in driving off General Hood's forces.

Tennessee rejoined the Union in July 1867. Union forces occupied Nashville and Fort Negley until September. At that time, the army dismantled the majority of Nashville's defenses.

In 1928, following failed efforts to preserve Fort Negley as a national military park, the City of Nashville purchased the property.

In 1936, 800 men working for the WPA (Works Progress Administration) reconstructed Fort Negley at a cost of \$84,000. The Fort reopened to the public in 1938. In the 1960s, Metro Parks removed the deteriorated stockade and closed the Fort to the public.



*Aerial View of Fort Negley, 1937*

Interest in Fort Negley grew during the 1990s; *The Parks and Greenways Master Plan* made restoration and interpretation of the Fort a priority. The City of Nashville appropriated funds for the project in 2002.

The project remains the largest expenditure of city funds for the preservation of a Civil War site in the nation.

Fort Negley, reopened to the public on the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Nashville in December 2004, offers interpretive panels and accessible walkways.

Fort Negley Visitors Center, opened in December 2007, features two films, access to *Civil War Soldier and Sailors System* maintained by the National Park Service and interactive touch screens highlighting occupied Nashville and Fort Negley.



Fort Negley Visitors Center partners with history and preservation groups, presents educational programming and serves as the home of the Nashville Civil War Roundtable.



Guided group and school tours are available with advanced reservations.

For more information, please call 615.862.8470 or visit [www.nashville.gov/parks/historic/fortnegley](http://www.nashville.gov/parks/historic/fortnegley)

